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QUARTERLY JOURNAL
OF THE
STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

DECEMBER, 1845.

Fifteenth Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Cambridge, June 18th—25th, 1845. Proceedings of the Statistical Section.

THE Statistical Section, which had a good attendance of members, under the presidency of Earl Fitzwilliam, held its meetings in one of the lecture rooms in the great court of Trinity College. The following were its Officers and Committee.

President.—Earl Fitzwilliam, M.A. and F.R.S.

Vice-Presidents.—Lord Sandon, M.P.; Colonel Sykes, F.R.S.; Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., F.R.S.; and Professor Pryme.

Secretaries.—Joseph Fletcher, Esq.; Dr. W. Cooke Taylor.

Committee.—Shafto Adair, Esq.; Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart.; the Mayor of Cork; Colonel Everest; His Excellency Edward Everett; Henry Hallam, Esq.; James Heywood, Esq.; Eaton Hodgkinson, Esq.; Sir John Johnston, Bart., M.P.; M. Jullien; William Kelcher, Esq.; G. S. Kenrick, Esq.; Dr. Laycock; J. Lehmann, Esq.; R. Monkton Milnes, M.P.; William Neild, Esq.; the Bishop of Norwich; G. R. Porter, Esq.; J. P. K. Shuttleworth, Esq.; Samuel Turner, Esq.; Alexander Watt, LL.D.

The following papers occupied the attention of the Section.

1. The University Statistics of Germany from the materials of Dr. Perry of Göttingen, by James Heywood, Esq., F.R.S.
2. Comparative Tables of Degrees in Cambridge in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, by James Heywood, Esq., F.R.S.
3. Progress and present Condition of Savings Banks in the United Kingdom, by G. R. Porter, Esq., F.R.S.
4. Statistics of the Trade of Norway, by R. Valpy, Esq.
5. Liability to Insanity at Different Ages, by Dr. Thurnam.
6. Ancient System of Public Charities in London, by Joseph Fletcher, Esq.
7. Contributions to the Agricultural Statistics of Norfolk, by Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.
8. Police Statistics of Manchester, by William Neild, Esq.
9. Provisional Report of the Committee on the Sanatory Condition of the City of York.
10. Production of Iron in Scotland, by Dr. Watt.
11. Colonization of the North of Ireland by the Corporation of London, by Joseph Fletcher, Esq.

12. On the different Modes of Estimating the Population of a Country, by Professor Pryme.

13. Universal Statistics, by M. Jullien.

14. Statistics of Small Pox, by Dr. Stark.

15. Statistics of Merthyr Tydvil, by G. S. Kenrick, Esq.

16. Vital Statistics of the United States, by Dr. Laycock.

17. Data for the Selection of Sites for Colonial Towns, by the Rev. Thomas Boys, M.A.

It was not deemed advisable to make any appeal to the Council for funds to carry out specific investigations. Mr. Porter, however, undertook, at the request of the Sectional Committee, to produce, against the period of its next meeting, a statistical view of the Iron Trade of Great Britain. The Committee further addressed a request to the Council of the Association, that the paper on Savings Banks by that gentleman, should appear in the next annual volume of the Association's Proceedings, among the Reports specially called for; a suggestion which received immediate approval on the part of the Council.

Contributions to Vital Statistics, especially designed to elucidate the Rate of Mortality, the Laws of Sickness, and the Influences of Trade and Locality on Health, derived from an extensive Collection of Original Data, supplied by Friendly Societies, and proving their too frequent Instability. By F. G. P. NEISON, Esq., F.S.S., F.L.S., Actuary to the Medical, Invalid, and General Life Office.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 17th March, 1845.]

1. *Duration of Life in England and Wales.*

THE best record of the general mortality in England and Wales is contained in the Annual Reports of the Registrar-General. So far as relates to the number of deaths in the entire community, more complete returns could not be hoped for.

The Fifth Report of the Registrar-General contains a table of the expectation of life, calculated on the mortality of the year 1841. The census of the population having been taken in that year, offered a ready means to determine the value of life for that period; but as the results of the mortality for several years would undoubtedly form a broader and more satisfactory basis on which to found a measure of the duration of life in this country, it is proposed to calculate a table on the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Reports of the Registrar-General; omitting the First Report, that any imperfections incidental to the early management of the Registers may be avoided. It is evidently necessary to ascertain the exact amount of population living at various ages in the country, during the periods of time to which the returns of deaths relate, before results can be obtained, showing the ratio of the population dying at the respective ages.

Previous to the population being calculated for the mean time of each period embraced in the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Reports, it will be necessary to apply a correction to the enumeration of the population at the period of the census.

In 1841, the ages of 35,408 males and 11,472 females, or '456 per